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## What They Said About the Benefits of High-Speed Rail

"What is important is the connection that we are rooted in our forebears and we are committed and linked to our descendants. And the high-speed rail links us from the past to the future, from the south to Fresno and north; this is truly a California project bringing us together today."

– **Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.**

"High-speed rail plays a critical role in a sustainable future—where we grow the economy, expand opportunity, and protect public health and the environment at the same time. I'm excited to celebrate this groundbreaking moment for California and the local economy."

– **Administrator Gina McCarthy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

"The passenger rail network of the future starts here in California. The Federal Railroad Administration is proud to partner with the California High-Speed Rail Authority as it breaks ground today to usher in a new era for fast, reliable and efficient, intercity passenger rail service. This project will set a new standard for passenger rail in the United States."

– **Administrator Joseph Szabo, Federal Railroad Administration**

"The groundbreaking of the first California high-speed rail segment, which will run from Madera to Fresno, is great news. California has proven its resolve and provided the financial commitment to make this project—which will ultimately connect Los Angeles to San Francisco—a reality. All Californians will benefit as a result." – **U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein**

"As shovels turn California soil, breaking ground on our nation's first high-speed rail project, we embark on a new era of clean, modern infrastructure, affordable transportation, and job creation. Thanks to the unsurpassed leadership of Governor Jerry Brown, Dan Richard and Jeff Morales, we have overcome roadblocks, secured long-term state funding and are on-track for high-speed rail in the Golden State. I am sure the selection of Fresno for this ceremony is a point of great pride for Congressman Jim Costa, one of the longest and strongest champions for high-speed rail during his time both in the legislature and now in the Congress." – **Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi**

"As a longtime champion of bringing high-speed rail to California and the prime author of the bond funding this project, I am thrilled to participate in today's historic groundbreaking of the California High-Speed Rail. High-speed rail, which will serve as an immediate economic catalyst for the San Joaquin Valley and later, the entire state of California, is a prime example of what we can accomplish when partisan differences are put aside and critical investments in infrastructure are prioritized. I look forward to the project moving forward and pledge to continue my efforts to ensure that the residents of the San Joaquin Valley are not adversely affected as the project develops." – **Congressman Jim Costa**

“As Chair of the California Democratic Congressional Delegation, I applaud this groundbreaking for the high-speed rail line which will eventually connect San Francisco to Los Angeles. This groundbreaking is an important milestone for this project. I applaud the strong leadership from the Governor, the State Legislature, and the High-Speed Rail Authority for helping to make this project a reality. High-speed rail will ease traffic congestion and improve air quality in our state. California’s urban areas rank among the most congested in the country and the problem will grow worse over time since California’s population is projected to grow to about 51 million people by 2050. The estimate is that without high-speed rail, California would need to build more than 4,000 new freeway lane miles, 115 new airport gates and four new runways just to keep up with population growth. The groundbreaking is a major step forward for high-speed rail and for transit, commuter, and intercity rail systems that will make up the statewide modernization program.” – **Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren, Chair, California Democratic Congressional Delegation**

“San Francisco celebrates this milestone in the construction of the California High-Speed Rail, the most important infrastructure project in generations that will create tens of thousands of jobs, grow our economy, reduce congestion, decrease greenhouse gas emissions and move our State’s transportation system into the 21st Century. We are leading the way with the construction of the Transbay Terminal as its Northern California home.” - **Ed Lee, Mayor of San Francisco**

"This groundbreaking is a significant milestone for the California High-Speed Rail project. Anyone who is involved with the project understands just how much work is left to be done and what an incredible undertaking it is. But it's important to officially mark the beginning of our nation's first high-speed rail program and honor the work and sacrifices that have been made to get to this point." – **Ashley Swearengin, Mayor of Fresno**

"This groundbreaking begins the positive transformation of Fresno County's economy and provides Californians a new mode of travel."– **Henry Perea, Fresno County Supervisor, District 3**

"Today's groundbreaking right in the heart of my City Council district, is just the beginning of moving people up and down our state and is the beginning of rapid economic development and growth for our community, our city and the state." - **Oliver L. Baines III, Incoming President of the Fresno City Council**

“History is being made here in California’s Central Valley – an area known for chronic unemployment is now building the country’s first high-speed rail line that will connect the state and will stimulate its economy while making infrastructure investments for future generations to come.” – **Will Oliver, Madera City Councilor**

"Today a single passenger rail trip from Los Angeles to the Bay Area is nearly a 12-hour journey, an option that's not acceptable for a vibrant, modern economy. High-speed rail brings new choices for California travelers--clean, convenient, and fast choices for everyone--including those who do not drive due to age, income, ability or choice. Together we are choosing to invest in California's future by modernizing and integrating our transportation systems to build our

economy and support millions of new travelers." – **Brian Kelly, Secretary of the California State Transportation Agency**

"High-speed rail is a key investment in California's future, allowing us to meet our long-term transportation needs in an environmentally sustainable way. As an alternative to air and car travel, it is an important part of our effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and fight climate change while improving air quality and public health in communities throughout the state." – **Matthew Rodriquez, Secretary of the Environmental Protection Agency**

"In the Central Valley, that has historically endured high unemployment, opportunity for young people to obtain apprenticeship with our construction trades is real and will happen. The residents of this valley will build this project. With this, we the Building Trades commit that the California High-Speed Rail will be built using a streamlined, well-trained workforce, built once, built right, in the least amount of time, under the lowest bid." – **Robbie Hunter, President of the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California**

"California is poised to build out a historic high-speed rail system – the largest jobs-creating infrastructure project in the nation – that will help to solve the state's mounting mobility and congestion challenges," said Edward Wytkind, president of the Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO (TTD). "This forward-looking initiative will employ thousands of construction workers and eventually create generations of well-paying rail operations, maintenance, and manufacturing jobs here in the U.S. We will continue to put our weight behind this nationally-significant transportation project." - **Ed Wytkind, President of the Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO**

"Successful economies depend on an effective and efficient transportation system. High-speed rail will be a game-changer for the state, especially the Central Valley, which for too long has been isolated from the economic engines of the Bay Area and the LA Basin. This project will create thousands of quality jobs, decades of economic growth and spark a renaissance of passenger rail travel. Working with Governor Brown, the High-Speed Rail Authority and other unions, the Teamsters are proud to have played a small part in making this day possible." – **David Cameron, Assistant Director of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Rail Conference**

"California is leading the way in transportation innovation. High-speed rail will expand transportation options in California and generate strong economic activity up and down the San Francisco- Los Angeles corridor. The American Public Transportation Association congratulates Governor Brown and the California High-Speed Rail Authority on this major milestone and pledges to continue to work with them on this transformative project." - **Michael Melaniphy, President & CEO, American Public Transportation Association**

"California's high-speed rail project will help create a more integrated and efficient transportation network in the nation's largest state. It will also generate thousands of quality jobs in the design and construction sectors, while improving the productivity of the California economy and workforce. ARTBA and its many California members will be working with Governor Brown and the California High-Speed Rail Authority to deliver this program of

projects.” - **T. Peter Ruane, President & CEO of the American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA)**

“This is truly a historic moment in America, where California once again is leading the way. High-speed rail will transform the nation as dramatically as the internet did. Congratulations to all those involved in this nationally important project.” – **Andy Kunz, President & CEO, U.S. High-Speed Rail Association**

"The nation owes a profound debt of thanks to Governor Brown, California's legislature, and progressive electorate for having the foresight and courage to be the first state to build a true 200 mile per hour high-speed rail system. California joins more than 30 international high-speed rail systems and leads the other 12 federally designated US high-speed rail corridors into a more sustainable national transportation future. Where California leads, the nation follows!" - **Rod Diridon, Sr., Chair of the U.S. High-Speed Rail Association Board and Emeritus Executive Director of the Mineta Transportation Institute**

“The high-speed rail groundbreaking is exciting for California for so many reasons. It represents faster, cleaner transportation and more efficient infrastructure planning and marks the start of an industry we haven’t had before in this nation. It’s even more exciting to see the project begin in Fresno County. California has always been the place for entrepreneurial thinking, and now Fresno is as much the heart of that spirit as it is the heart of the state.” - **Lee Ann Eager, President/CEO of the Fresno County Economic Development Corporation**

“Fresno EOC has been actively involved in workforce and contractor development initiatives to prepare our local residents – particularly small, women-owned, minority, and/or DVBE enterprises and individuals - for high-speed rail and related opportunities. The scale of these opportunities is unprecedented, as is the mandate for aggressive recruitment and thorough preparation of candidates to meet the requirements of the project. Fresno EOC stands prepared to provide strong regional leadership to assure maximum participation of our residents on the HSR project bringing increased economic vitality and sustenance to our community.” - **Brian Angus, CEO of the Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission**

"The Downtown Business Hub and the Fresno Area Hispanic Foundation believes that High-Speed Rail is a sorely needed economic engine for our region, by providing both immediate job growth as well as long term employment opportunity. It is time for this entire region to turn the corner for economic vitality as this project will no doubt be the catalyst for downtown revitalization, sustained local business opportunity and increased awareness for the ever blossoming Central Valley." - **Dora Rivera Westerlund, CEO of the Fresno Area Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Foundation**

"High-Speed Rail is becoming a job creation catalyst up and down the state. As a result, our pre-apprenticeship program has produced 120 graduates with 50 of these skilled workers finding employment in related fields or projects." - **Chuck Riojas, Secretary of the Building and Construction Trades Council of Fresno, Madera, Kings & Tulare Counties**

“Already, the High-Speed Rail project is putting Californians back to work in good paying jobs that promise to bring cleaner air, lighter traffic, and economic prosperity.”- **John Spaulding, Secretary of the Building and Construction Trades Council of Kern, Inyo & Mono Counties**

“Today’s groundbreaking reflects the real spirit of California. Throughout our history, Californians have looked to the future and undertaken great projects to enrich the lives of generations yet to come. From our state university systems to our highway network to our water projects, we have embraced the challenges necessary to make this a truly golden state. High-speed rail is another affirmation of California's commitment to a more prosperous future and an affirmation of our commitment to ensuring the mobility so vital to our state’s continued economic growth.” – **Steve Heminger, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission**

"I have had the good fortune of working with the California High-Speed Rail Authority over the last three years and today's groundbreaking marks the beginning of a new era of transportation excellence that will transform the California passenger rail network into a world class system. Investments will be directed to the popular Capitol Corridor trains which will expand service, reduce travel times and connect passengers with these state-of-the-art high-speed trains. I am excited about what the future brings to the Capitol Corridor in our partnership with the Authority." - **David Kutrosky, Executive Director of the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Board**

“Caltrain congratulates the California High-Speed Rail Authority as they break ground on this transformative project. This is a landmark moment for the sustainable future of our state, and also an opportunity to recognize the near-term benefits that this project is making possible. Thanks to high-speed rail, we’re moving forward with immediate improvements to expand capacity on a modernized Caltrain commuter rail corridor that will eventually connect Bay Area travelers to the rest of the state.” - **Michael J. Scanlon, Executive Director of the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (Caltrain)**

“With this groundbreaking, California takes another big step toward a safe, convenient, and sustainable transportation future. We are inspired on this day as we continue to build California high-speed rail’s northern terminus, the Transbay Transit Center, which will serve as a gateway for high-speed rail travelers to San Francisco and the Bay Area.” - **Maria Ayerdi-Kaplan, Executive Director of the Transbay Joint Powers Authority (Transbay Terminal)**

"From the Silicon Valley to the Central Valley - from the world's Innovation Capitol to the world's Agricultural Capitol - the excitement of High-Speed Rail traversing our state is only growing stronger. In Silicon Valley, we are used to 'nay-sayers' who question what can or cannot be done. It only makes success sweeter as obstacles are overcome and innovative solutions stay on-track." - **Carl Guardino, Executive Director of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group**

“This groundbreaking marks the beginning of a statewide modernization plan that will invest billions of dollars in local and regional rail lines to connect existing services with the high-speed rail service.” **-Dan Leavitt, Manager of Regional Initiatives for the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority/San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission**

“History teaches us that no matter what form of government exists worldwide, that when faced with economic challenges, they all turn to some form of infrastructure project to employ and give national pride in great projects that are useful and lasting for ALL its citizens! America needs to step up to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and have state-of-the-art high-speed rail transportation to help clean up the environment and reduce our dependency on foreign oil.” - **Brad Johns, Kings County third-generation family farmer**